in the House. *(Interruptions)*... I will tell you. The position is like this. *(Interruptions)*

DR. R. K. PODDAR (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir,...

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir,...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Poddar, please sit down. Professorji, please sit down. There are about five or six Special Mentions remaining. There is no objection. We can begin with it. But the House will have to sit late to take up the Bills. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: No, Sir, We cannot sit. We want to know...*(Interruptions)*... Let us be clear. *(Interruptions)*... That can be done tomorrow. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We still have two days. *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, we still have tomorrow and day after tomorrow. Tomorrow we will be discussing Bofors and one Bill can be taken up during these two days. My suggestion is that let us complete the Special Mentions and the Half-an-hour Discussion. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): No, no. The legislative...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, first of all, do you have an idea of this? Is it the Bihar Government or not? The Bihar Government ... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Let us not enter into it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: This is the first Indian Government to issue half a dozen Ordinances in two months during the inter-session period. It is for the first time that the Central Government has issued half a dozen Ordinances. Let the Ordinances lapse. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Morarka, you can speak on the Statutory Resolutions. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: There is an easy solution, Sir. They can withdraw the Ordinances right now.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): First we will take up Special Mentions, then legislative business.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Alleged official permission for 49 per cent impurities in foodgrains sold through the Public Distribution System

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): I was totally aghast and shocked when I read this report. I am talking about an issue which concerns the majority of the people of this country. I was very happy to see the Prime Minister on the Television when he announced about some kind of reform in the Public distribution system which is very much required in this country. Sir, I think we are making a mockery of the public distribution system. We are talking about the poor all the time whenever it suits us from all sorts of platforms. *(Interruptions)*. I have already started. I will take only two minutes. The public distribution system is very close to your hearts. I don't doubt the intentions of the hon. Prime Minister and the Government. They are very sincere to do something about it. I have no doubt about that. But Sir, I was shocked when I read in the newspaper that 49 per cent impurities are officially allowed in the PDS foodgrains. Can you believe it? It is the official report. Government has not denied this. This report has come 4 or 5 days before. There is no denial of this report. If 49 per cent is officially permitted, 20 to 25 per cent is added by the traders, it will make 75 per cent. May I suggest something which is very radical but really for the benefit of the poor? There has been a proposal that people who can afford should go out of the PDS. I propose on the contrary that those who are poor and cannot afford, they should go out of the PDS. Those who can afford they should get into the PDS. The reason is very simple. The difference of price between the outside market and the PDS is not of even 50 per cent. If you are going to have about 75 per cent of impurities then what is the big deal? Let the poor people get out of the PDS.

On the contrary those people who can afford are getting better foodgrains at lesser price. What is happening—I am

sure the hon. Minister who is sitting here will take note of it—is that whatever is for the PDS under the garb of this draconian regulation, it goes by the camouflage of the technical term 'refraction'. I don't know what this 'refraction' is. Under the name of refraction 49 per cent impurities is officially allowed. They have divided it into two grades. Grade one will contain 39 per cent impurities. To them, 39 per cent impurities is very low. Grade two will contain 49 per cent impurities. What they do is, they take out the foodgrains without impurities for the better class. The better class of citizens is, those who can afford and those who have money. To the leftover is added 50 per cent impurities from outside because it is permitted. Sir, this is a very serious matter. On top of it, to add salt to the injury, it says that foodgrains which are available in the PDS should be wholesome, it should not have odour, it should not have foreign particles. On the other hand it says, it can contain 49 per cent refractions. Sir, I think an inquiry committee should be set up. Sir, this is absolutely contrary to what we have been talking about the poor people and the weaker sections of the society. A lot of things I hear day in and day out, right from morning till evening. I keep on hearing them. But we don't do anything to imporve their lot. I think this is very serious. We are making a mockery of the law which deals with prevention of food adulteration and for whom? For the people who cannot afford. I demand through you, Sir, that there should a committee to go into the entire gamut of PDS and the kind of foodgrains they should be getting. This I feel is very very serious and I am sure the entire House including you, will join me in appealing to the Government. Thank you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to associate and...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): Please, one minute... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Are you also associating?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Sir, I seek your indulgence. We have no objection in case they want to take up the special mentions... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): They want to associate with the special mention... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Sir, I have also given a special mention on this. It is a very serious matter. The Public Distribution System, the Prime Minister is supposed to have inaugurated, and 49 per cent is allowed as adulteration...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR). The Health Minister is here... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: No, the Health Minister is not concerned about this Bill. He is concerned with the Red Cross Bill. We want to associate with this very important matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, this is truly a mockery and if this goes to the public, this knowledge if it reaches the poor man, the Government will have lots to answer for. Let them stay warned... *(Interruptions)*

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया (बिहार): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जानने की जरूरत है, आखिर इस क्वालिटि कंट्रोल के जो नॉर्मस हैं, वे किसने बनाए हैं और कहां बने हैं? इस पर जांच करने की जरूरत है। कृपया आप सरकार को डायरेक्ट करें कि वह जांच करे कौन सा आफिसर इन्वोल्व है और अगर यह बात जो दिनेशभाई ने उठाई है, सच है तो उस आफिसर के खिलाफ कार्यवाही होना जरूरी है।

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: Let the special mentions be taken up today. There is Legislative Business of Shri Rameshwar Thakur and if the House so agrees we can take this up and finish it and tomorrow the first item should be the Red Cross... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: No, Sir. After special mentions, half-an-hour discussion should be taken up and then the House should be adjourned... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: In case the House agrees, then we have no objection. Otherwise we will have to sit up to. I... *(Interruptions)*

Let us take one Bill today and one Bill tomorrow... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: No, Sir. Please adjourn after the special mentions and the half-an-hour discussion... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Yashwant Sinha...*(Interruptions)*

श्री अश्विनी कुमार (बिहार): सर, हाफ एन आवर जो डिसकशन है, यह बहुत जरूरी है। एच•ई•सी• बंद होने जा रहा है, 18 हजार कर्मचारियों के सामने संकट का प्रश्न है। इसके लिए भी जवाब देने के लिए अगर सरकार के पास समय नहीं है तो किस लिए है?...(व्यवधान)

Agitation for a Separate State of Jharkhand

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Sir, the issue which I wish to raise through my special mention is about the agitation for a separate State of Jharkhand and I hasten to assure the Home Minister that I would not like to queer the pitch of his discussion and negotiation through this intervention. I had given this special mention some time back when the economic blockade in the Chotanagpur area of Bihar was at its peak and a lot of loss was being caused by the non-movement of coal and other minerals. But in the meanwhile there have been some developments and I am happy to note that the Home Minister had called the leaders of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha for a discussion and he is again calling a meeting of the Chief Minister of the concerned States, perhaps on the 5th of April to discuss this matter further. Yesterday, the economic blockade had been called off and I hope the situation would have returned to normal in that part of the country today. But the point I wish to make is that the Home Minister has laid before Parliament for the information of the Members and the people of this country a report of the committee which had been appointed on Jharkhand and that Committee had made certain recommendations. The Home Minister will, I am sure, discuss the various issues involved in the recommendations with the Chief Ministers. But the only point which I would like to make at this stage is, let not this matter linger any more. The movement for a separate State in that region, in that area, has been going on for a long time and we are all aware of the saying "Too little and too late". We tend to make compromises when these things gone out of control and then we end up making bigger compromises than what would have satisfied the people if we had tackled the problem in time. This report of the Committee was submitted to the Government of India sometime in 1990. Unfortunately, it has not been acted upon so far. The point that I make is that the Government of India should not shirk its responsibility. It has come to my notice that the Government of India expects the Chief Ministers, especially the Chief Minister of Bihar, to take the initiative in the matter. For various reasons, the Chief Minister of Bihar is not keen to take the intiative. The other Chief Ministers are also not keen to take the initiative. They are only saving that they will accept; at least, the Chief Minister of Bihar will accept whatever the Government.of India decides. Now in this tug of war where one is trying to throw the ball in the other's court, this matter is lingering. I am only appealing to the Home Minister that the Government of India should take courage in both hands and take a decision—whatever they consider to be just and fair. In coming to a just and fair decision, the only request which I will make is that there are other political parties which are operating in that region. I myself come from that area. You are welcome to negotiate with anyone. But you must give a chance to every political party to present their views to you as you are giving to the Chief Ministers so that you can take a decision which is informed and well-considered. In other words, I am suggesting that there must be an all-party decision, an all-party meeting, to discuss this issue where you must be able to listen to various political parties, including your own, in this matter. The second point is that this decision should be taken expeditiously and the third point which I would like to make is that once you have made up your mind, kindly go ahead with the implementation of that decision and make sure that you firmly hold your ground. Don't then allow this situation to go out of hand, as